



SELECTIVE REENLISTMENT BONUS PROBLEMS



Eligible Soldiers who reenlist may qualify for a Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB). Those bonuses are based on several factors including period of service of reenlistment, military occupational specialty (MOS) and the current needs of the Army.

Q: What if my Career Counselor made a mistake in determining my eligibility for a bonus?

A: Bonuses offered for re-enlistment change constantly, depending on the current forecasted needs for a sufficient number of trained Soldiers with a particular MOS. If the bonus eligibility changes, and the Career Counselor did not realize it before you signed your reenlistment contract, the Army may still honor that contract and pay the bonus. AR 601-280, para. 5-13f states, "Cases involving SRB payments in which the career counselor erred, and the soldier was not paid a bonus to which entitled, or wrong amount will be forwarded to HRC-Alexandria, AHRC-EPR with recommendations for resolution." Either the Retention NCO's on post, or our Legal Assistance Office can help you to prepare the request. Because our nation considers it so important to honor its commitments, these obligations are normally paid, unless there was egregious error that was obviously incorrect in the contract.

Q: What if I lose my eligibility for a bonus because I later lose the MOS, or another qualification that enables me to serve in that MOS?

A: Soldiers who have received a bonus or who no longer qualify for a bonus due to a loss of an MOS skill qualification, or the ability to serve in that MOS may be required to repay part or all of the bonus received. For example, many MOS'es require a security clearance. Loss of a security clearance in those cases makes the Soldier ineligible to continue in that MOS, and therefore ineligible for that bonus.

Army Regulation 601-280, para. 5-14 states, "The effective date of loss of technical proficiency will be the effective date of recoupment. If HRC-Alexandria directs recoupment, the PSC will advise the servicing FAO by memorandum with the HRC Alexandria decision attached. The memorandum will contain the soldier's name, SSN, effective date that bonus entitlement ended, and a statement that the soldier has been advised of the recoupment decision. . . A soldier who is not technically qualified in the skill for which a bonus was paid will refund a percentage equal to the unqualified portion of the agreement. This does not apply to a soldier who is not qualified because of injury, illness, or other impairment not caused by his or her own misconduct."

If you owe a debt to the Department of Defense for repayment of a bonus, and you are still in the U.S. military, you may be able to petition the Army for remission or reduction

of the debt. To do so, a Soldier will complete a DA Form 3508 and submit it through his chain of command to Finance. More information on this procedure can be found in Army Regulation 600-4 (Remission or Cancellation of Indebtedness).

More information can be found in Army Regulation 600-8-4 "line of Duty Policy, Procedures and Investigations which can be found online at http://www.apd.army.mil/pdf/r601_280.pdf.



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